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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this book is to provide an understanding of the phenomenon of school bullying and to suggest ways to counter it effectively. These purposes are addressed in parts 1 and 2 of the book, respectively. Part 1, "Understanding Bullying," consists of five chapters. Chapter 1 recounts the growing interest in bullying in Australia and internationally, examines various manifestations of bullying, and distinguishes bullying from harassment. Chapter 2 describes the nature and incidence of bullying in Australian schools, while chapter 3 examines the consequences of bullying for victims, bullies themselves, and witnesses of bullying. A model, by which a variety of causal factors for bullying can be identified, is proposed in chapter 4. Chapter 5 focuses on the school ethos, using research on teacher attitudes and on students' perceptions of victims and bullies. Part 2, "What Can Be Done about It," consists of chapters 6 through 17 of the book. Chapter 6 introduces part 2 and chapter 7 discusses how to begin the process of addressing the problem of bullying in school. The development of a school policy on bullying is examined in chapter 8, while chapter 9 considers how students can be encouraged to support policies and practices directed against bullying. Chapter 10 identifies where bullying takes place in and around schools, and addresses ways of dealing with bullying in specific locations. Ways for schools to obtain information on bullying within their premises are discussed in chapter 11. Chapter 12 considers what can be done with, rather than to, bullies, and chapter 13 recounts so-called humanistic approaches to dealing with bullying. Chapter 14 focuses on how teachers and counselors can help victims of bullying, while chapter 15 examines the role of parents and families in reducing bullying in schools. How bullying can be addressed by students themselves, using mediation skills to help each other, is discusses in chapter 16. Chapter 17 serves as an epilogue to the book. Additional resources and resources organizations in Australia are listed. Contains over 100 references. (BC)

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